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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND DEPARTMENT  
OF HUMAN SERVICES TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE STATUS OF THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN THE *FINAL  
REPORT OF THE COMPACTS OF FREE ASSOCIATION TASK FORCE  
PURSUANT TO S.R. NO. 142, S.D. 1, REGULAR SESSION OF 2007.*

1 WHEREAS, The Compact of Free Association (Compact) defines  
2 the relationship that the Federated States of Micronesia, the  
3 Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau have  
4 as associated states with the United States; and

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6 WHEREAS, under the Compact, the United States provides  
7 direct economic assistance, federal services, and military  
8 protection to the associated states in exchange for defense  
9 rights; and

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11 WHEREAS, under the Compact, Freely Associated States  
12 citizens can migrate in and out of Hawaii without visas or other  
13 immigration requirements; and

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15 WHEREAS, according to United States census data, it is  
16 estimated that over twelve thousand Freely Associated States  
17 citizens have migrated to Hawaii; and

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19 WHEREAS, this migration has had a significant financial  
20 impact on Hawaii in terms of unreimbursed health care,  
21 education, public safety, and welfare costs; and

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23 WHEREAS, since the federal government continues to provide  
24 inadequate federal medical and welfare assistance to Freely  
25 Associated States citizens who migrated to Hawaii and other  
26 parts of the United States, many rely on state aid; and

27  
28 WHEREAS, it is reported that the education, health, public  
29 safety, and social services cost of migrants from the Freely



1 Associated States to Hawaii alone was \$628,752,280 between 2004  
2 and 2010, with education and health care costs accounting for  
3 the largest shares; and  
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5 WHEREAS, there are high rates of tuberculosis, hepatitis B,  
6 and syphilis reported among migrants from the Freely Associated  
7 States; and  
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9 WHEREAS, there is no centralized plan for the provision of  
10 services to this population; and  
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12 WHEREAS, the Senate adopted S.R. No. 142, S.D. 1 (S.R. No.  
13 142), during the Regular Session of 2007, which requested the  
14 Attorney General to convene a task force to investigate and  
15 coordinate the provision of services to migrants from the Freely  
16 Associated States; and  
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18 WHEREAS, the task force established under S.R. No. 142  
19 focused on three general areas and created subcommittees to  
20 address each area, including funding, census, and services, and  
21 made recommendations for each of these focus areas; and  
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23 WHEREAS, under the *Final Report of the Compacts of Free*  
24 *Association Task Force Pursuant to Senate Resolution No. 142,*  
25 *S.D. 1, Regular Session of 2007,* the task force made several  
26 recommendations to increase funding, accurately track the census  
27 of Freely Associated States citizens migrating to and residing  
28 in Hawaii, and coordinate efforts to increase and effectively  
29 deliver services to the new community of members from the Freely  
30 Associated States; and  
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32 WHEREAS, since the submittal of the task force's report  
33 during the Regular Session of 2009, the census of Freely  
34 Associated States citizens residing in Hawaii has increased,  
35 which has strengthened the need to coordinate efforts providing  
36 services to Freely Associated States citizens with limited  
37 resources; now, therefore,  
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39 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
40 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the  
41 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of the  
42 Attorney General and Department of Human Services are requested



1 to conduct a study on the status of the implementation of the  
2 recommendations made in the *Final Report of the Compacts of Free*  
3 *Association Task Force Pursuant to Senate Resolution No. 142,*  
4 *S.D. 1, Regular Session of 2007; and*

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the Attorney  
7 General and Department of Human Services provide an update to  
8 the *Final Report of the Compacts of Free Association Task Force*  
9 *Pursuant to Senate Resolution No. 142, S.D. 1, Regular Session*  
10 *of 2007* and status of the State's implementation of the  
11 recommendations relating to funding, census, and services; and  
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, with respect to the  
14 recommendations relating to services, the Department of the  
15 Attorney General and Department of Human Services are requested  
16 to provide further details on the following recommendations:  
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- 18 (1) Establishing a cultural center model, which would be  
19 culturally sensitive, to standardize the service  
20 delivery process and promote accessibility through a  
21 number of designated sites statewide;  
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- 23 (2) As an alternative to a cultural center model,  
24 providing coordinated case management so that a client  
25 would have assistance in navigating the often  
26 confusing bureaucracy of the state agencies that  
27 provide social services;  
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- 29 (3) Developing and implementing an acculturation program  
30 to better inform Freely Associated States migrants of  
31 resources available to them; and  
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- 33 (4) Expanding the distribution of the acculturation  
34 booklet that was developed through the collaborative  
35 effort of state and private agencies that is  
36 interpreted into the six major languages; and  
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the Attorney  
39 General and Department of Human Services identify any gaps in  
40 providing medical, educational, housing, and social services to  
41 Freely Associated States citizens, including assistance in



1 copayments for migrants who are not eligible for health  
2 insurance copayment assistance; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the Attorney  
5 General and Department of Human Services are requested to submit  
6 a report to the Legislature of their findings and  
7 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, no later  
8 than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2016 Regular  
9 Session; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General,  
13 Director of Human Services, Director of the Department of the  
14 Interior's Office of Insular Affairs in Hawaii, President of  
15 Micronesians United, and President of the Micronesian Community  
16 Network.

